

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending. Claims 1-6, 13-20 and 23-24 have been amended. Claims 7-12 have been cancelled. Claims 26-30 are newly submitted. The specification has been amended to correct informalities. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-6 and 13-30 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

I. The § 102 Rejections

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,542,979 ("Eckardt"). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in response to detecting a special boot condition, adjusting a size of a partition of a hardfile to alter an operating system access configuration of the hardfile.

A. Eckardt Fails To Disclose Adjusting a Size of a Partition of a Hardfile To Alter an Operating System Access Configuration of the Hardfile

Eckardt discloses a supplemental driver that is stored outside of the master boot record of a disk drive, which supplemental driver is used to access a hidden disk partition (see Abstract). In particular, Eckardt discloses that if a "hot key" is pressed during boot of the disk drive, then the supplemental driver is combined with a driver from the master boot record which permits an operating system to access both legal partitions and illegal partitions. If the "hot key" is not pressed, then the operating system only has access to the legal partitions of the hard drive (col. 1, line 61 – col. 2, line 13).

While Eckardt discloses granting an operating system access to a more (or less) partitions of a hard drive to control operating system access to data on the hard drive, Eckardt clearly fails

to disclose adjusting a size of a partition of a hardfile to alter an operating system access configuration of the hardfile. Instead, as discussed above, Eckardt discloses only changing the number of partitions that an operating system can access during boot up (depending upon whether a "hot key" is pressed). Eckardt, therefore, fails to disclose adjusting a size of a partition of a hardfile to alter an operating system access configuration of the hardfile, as required by claim 1.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 1, and the claims that depend therefrom, are allowable over Eckardt.

B. Other Independent Claims

Claims 13-19, 23 and 28 each incorporates limitations similar to those of claim 1. Claims 13-19, 23 and 28 (and the claims that depend therefrom) are also allowable over Eckardt for reasons corresponding to those set forth with respect to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims 1-6 and 13-30 are allowable over Eckardt, and are in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
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September 12, 2005



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